

REMARKS

Previously, claims 1-7, 16-21 and 44-45 are pending in this application and have been allowed as per Notice of Allowance dated on September 28, 2007 and the Supplemental Notice of Allowance dated on November 13, 2007. In the interest of expedition, claims 5, 17, 19, 44 and 45 (as previously allowed) have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Separately, claims 6-7 and 20-21 have been amended to correct proper dependency, and claim 46 has been newly added to alternatively capture the allowable subject matter as previously defined in the allowed claim 18. As amended, claims 1-4, 6-7, 16, 18, 20-21 and 46 are now pending and should be deemed in condition for allowance.

In view of the foregoing amendments, arguments and remarks, the instant application is believed to be in condition to be passed to issue. Should any questions remain unresolved, the Examiner is requested to telephone Applicants' attorney at the Washington DC office at (202) 216-9505. Applicants respectfully reserve all rights to file subsequent related application(s) (including reissue applications) directed to any or all previously claimed limitations/features which have been amended or canceled, or to any or all limitations/features not yet claimed, i.e., Applicants have no intention or desire to dedicate or surrender any limitations/features of the disclosed invention to the public.

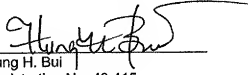
To the extent necessary, Applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR §1.136. Please charge any shortage of fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to the Deposit Account of Stein, McEwen & Bui, LLP, No. 503333, and credit any excess fees to said deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
STEIN, MCEWEN & BUI, LLP

Date: _____

12/14/07

By: _____



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